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CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

- Use wheel for transportation
- Improve pottery making process
- Produce large amounts of copper and used to make tools and weapons
- Watering fields
- Astronomy
- Improve engineering ability
- Developed a helpful numerical system

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- used in Mesopotamia, circa 3250 BCE
- possibly first used to create pottery
- used for easier movement of items like ploughs, carts, war chariots
- used animals like donkey and oxen to pull
- used kiln: an oven that's enclosed used to make bricks and pottery
- kiln can reach high temperatures
- high temp. allows bricks and pottery to become more tough and hard vs. sun dried bricks
- stronger tools created by mixing copper plus tin to make bronze
- improved tool strength allow for making superior boats and land transportation (size, durability / strength)
- allowed them to trade with faraway places (ex. India)
- began by carrying water from rivers to fields
- as time passed, dug channels and canals enabling water from rivers to flow to fields
- Sumerian priests determined best times for tilling fields and planting, harvesting crops
- established calendar that had 2 seasons: summer and winter
- calendar based on phases of moon and included 12 moons, 30 days each
- used what they know about mathematics to build large temples and complicated systems of canals, dikes, ditches
- created a number system based on 60. was used by astronomers and mathematicians until 1600's: still used today to measure angles and time
- as cities and the need to keep track of economic activities grew, Sumerians created a system which separated the symbol of an item from the amount
- system was a very helpful when dealing with large amounts
- ex: five barrels of oil= represented by symbol for five and symbol for oil

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

Through time, the Sumerian people created many forms of technology and ways of making their everyday life easier. Some of these included things such as irrigation and using wheels for transportation. Our lives have been made easier because of the Sumerians and the things they've invented.